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Thursday, March 20 - Wednesday, March 26, 2014 Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk

County council announces plans for education

TOWN'S SCHOOLS GET £11M BOOST

Alton College's Chinese experience - see page 8

THREE Basingstoke schools will get a major boost as Hampshire County Council looks set to pump £11million into the town.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

A new 210-place junior school will form part of Castle Hill junior school's Rooksdown site in a £6.6million project.

And £4.4m will go towards Merton Infant and Junior schools, who will get seven new classrooms (three in infant, four in junior), as well as studio and resource areas.

Again, this will increase the schools' combined capacity by 210.

The schools are three of nine in Hampshire to get a share of the £23m investment package.

The decision was confirmed at HCC's Buildings, Land and Procurement Panel meeting on Tuesday night.

However, a final decision is still yet to be made by Councillor Roy Perry – HCC leader and executive member for Policy and Resources – who will do so on April 10.

The panel's chairman, Councillor Mel Kendal hailed the council's partnership with schools around the county.

"The success of our capital allocation from government is, we believe, down to our excellent track record of working in partnership with our schools, Children's Services and Property Services all working together to offer the best solutions that deliver excellent learning and teaching environments," he said.

"Hampshire has a national reputation for its school buildings and these new classrooms will be low maintenance and built with the latest energy saving efficiencies so that more of the schools' budgets can go into teaching and learning."

The other Hampshire schools to receive a share of the £23m boost are South Farnborough Junior (£1.6m for four new classrooms), Forest Education Centre (£4.6m for a new permanent building), Locks Heath Infant and Junior in Fareham (£3.2m for permanent classrooms, a learning hub and four new classrooms), and Andover's Vigo Infant and Junior Schools (£2.5m for five new classrooms between the two).

Councillor Peter Edgar, HCC's executive member for Education, said: "This is very good news for schools and children.

"We're working hard to increase capacity at primary schools in areas where demand

• Continued on page 2

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Fast broadband set for borough

BASINGSTOKE, Odiham and Overton are among several areas of Hampshire set to benefit from faster broadband.

Hampshire County Council (HCC) will deliver phase two of its Superfast Broadband Programme – in partnership with BT – which will bring the improved service to 8,000 homes and businesses.

Over 5,000 premises and homes, including some in areas of Basingstoke, have already received the faster service.

The switching-on of the quicker speeds will take place from April to June.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

HCC leader, Councillor Roy Perry, said: "We are making very good progress with our work to make superfast broadband speeds available to 95 per cent of homes and businesses in Hampshire by 2017.

"HCC, together with district and borough partners, has already invested £5million into the overall £13.8m project and the county has earmarked further investment of up to £9.2m to lever further funding to reach the 95 per cent target.

"This is bringing internet services to people in the county's rural communities who would otherwise be left with limited access or none at all, because the commercial market will not reach them.

"It is not a statutory responsibility of HCC but we will do what we reasonably can to help Hampshire residents access superfast broadband. We recognise access to superfast broadband will play an increasingly important role in Hampshire's social and economic development, as well as in our strategy to tackle isolation and access to services in rural areas."

Peter Cowen, BT's regional partnership director, South East, said: "Access to fast broadband is an essential tool for local businesses and can be a catalyst for the creation of new jobs.

"High-speed technology is a must, not a luxury, for business in the modern age.

"It's also important for everyday life, as families use various devices to access the internet at the same time, whether for social networking, entertainment or education."

Schools in Basingstoke get funding

· From front page

is greatest, ensuring there is sufficient provision for young families who move into the area.

"Our success is demonstrated by the fact that we were able to offer 98 per cent of families a place at one of their preferred primary schools in the last admissions round."

These latest schemes are part of the £147million investment planned to create 8,000 new school places by 2016.

Demand is growing, and it's due not just to an increase in the birth rate, but also to new housing developments and more families attracted into Hampshire.

Funding is made up of government grants, developer contributions and the HCC's resources.

Labour candidate wants to tackle 'real issues for real people'

BASINGSTOKE'S Labour candidate for next year's parliamentary elections has pledged to tackle the "real issues affecting real people's lives".

Paul Harvey, whose nomination was announced several weeks ago, will go up against Conservative incumbent Maria Miller in the fight for the town's parliamentary seat.

Miller, who is secretary of state for Culture, Media and Sport, has held the seat since 2005, when she succeeded Andrew Hunter.

The current deputy leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Labour Group, Dr Harvey has pledged to tackle the "real issues affecting real people's lives".

"I will address the future of our schools in Basingstoke and the importance to access of good quality education," said Dr Harvey.

"And I will also fight for people to maintain access to the NHS.

"There's a massive affordable housing crisis in Basingstoke, and what we need to do is to make sure the government take social housing seriously.

"We need money invested in social housing that enables local councils to build homes themselves or enable social housing providers to build homes that are really affordable for people.

"We need a social housing program from the government that is listening to what the needs are on the economy, on all issues in Basingstoke.

"We always talk, and it's important we do talk, about the big business we have in Basingstoke, the major international corporations.

"But it's also about the small businesses, about the small-to-medium sized employers who are the biggest employers in Basingstoke, who need support."

He added that his first pledge, should he win, would be to open a constituency-based office in the town.

Housing group meets flooding victims in Buckskin

REPRESENTATIVES of Sovereign Housing Association have been meeting with residents in Buckskin, to speak with people affected by flooding and assess the damage.

Sovereign board member Gordon Holdcroft and the chair of Sovereign's Residents' Council Simon Byng visited the area last Friday, where 40 homes were flooded in February and March.

Mr Holdcroft said: "The scale of the challenge and disruption can only be appreciated by visiting the site.

"The one thing that stood out for me was the positive community spirit of the residents, and the fantastic response of the Sovereign team and the other agencies in supporting the residents."

For those forced out of their homes, nine have since been rehoused and offers have been made to 14 other families.

Residents who were evacuated from their homes, but ultimately weren't flooded, will be allowed to return by the weekend following gas and safety checks.

Sovereign staff are still available at the Ridgeway Centre from 9am to 1pm each day to offer advice and support for those still affected. Lee Dillon, Sovereign's community investment coordinator, said: "People have been very generous in donating unwanted furniture to help these people in need."

· **Gordon Holdcroft, Lee Dillon and Simon Byng inspect the damage (Picture: Sovereign Housing)**

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Kids Corner - Children Welcome

Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
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Structure bridges gap to Basing View

A FOOTBRIDGE connecting the new Network Rail Basingstoke Campus, a regional control and training centre, to Basing View has been installed across the London to Bournemouth railway line.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The 59-metre long footbridge was transported to the Gresley Road site in three pieces and assembled at the top of the cutting.

The 88 tonne structure was then put into place in the early hours of March 9.

Trains on the line were stopped for two hours as the bridge was fixed into position.

Construction of the state-of-the-art campus started in September and is progressing on schedule towards the programmed opening in early 2015.

The covered bridge, with lighting and CCTV cameras, will provide pedestrians and cyclists with a direct access between Basing View and Gresley Road.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) is partially funding the cost of the bridge, as it will provide access to future additional parking spaces on the Gresley Road site for occupiers in the Basing View business district.

The footbridge is set to open in early 2015 once work is completed on the main campus.

The borough council's deputy leader Cllr Ranil Jayawardena, lead member on the Basing View regeneration, said: "It is impressive to see this new footbridge spanning the railway constructed so quickly.

"Having such an important regional facility here demonstrates Basingstoke's key location on the rail network.

"This link to the heart of Basingstoke's town centre business district Basing View marks another huge step forward in its regeneration and success story."

Network Rail project manager Jeff Rose said: "The new Basingstoke Campus represents a step change in the operation and maintenance of the railway infrastructure.

"It brings historically separate disciplines together into a purpose built location, which is at the heart of the South Western railway. The new footbridge extends the principle of railway staff integration, allowing the campus users to easily integrate with the wider Basingstoke community."

• Cllr Ranil Jayawardena and Jeff Rose

News Bites

Man assaulted

A MAN was left with a broken jaw after being attacked in Basingstoke in the early hours of Sunday.

The victim and another man, both 27, were assaulted in a passageway between Winchester Street and Joices Yard at 3.20am.

The victim was punched in the head, and treated at Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford.

Investigating officer DC Dan Leese said: "This happened in the town centre and close to a busy taxi rank. Did you see or hear anything? Please contact us with any information."

Recruitment day

COUNTRY Market in Bordon will be hosting a special recruitment day on Monday.

From 9am until 5pm, businesses that feature in the new store, which is due to be unveiled at the beginning of May, will be on hand to meet and greet potential employees.

Sharon Edwards, Partner of Country Market, said: "We are very much looking forward to the unveiling of our new store and hope that our Recruitment Day will provide an opportunity for people to further, or for some, even start their careers.

Those interested in attending the Recruitment Day are encouraged to pre-register their interest by emailingsharonedwards.cm@outlook.com or to visit www.countrymarket.co.uk.

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Shoppers give generously in charity appeal

GENEROUS Basingstoke shoppers turned out to support St Michael's Hospice during a fund-raising weekend held at the new-look Harveys Furniture in the town earlier this month.

The 10,000 sq ft store at Brighton Hill Retail Park, celebrated its official reopening after refurbishment by inviting volunteers from the charity to set up their own stall-selling merchandise on March 8 and 9.

In addition to funds raised by the charity and staff, Harveys Furniture made donations based on sales of selected items over the weekend.

Manager Paul Beesley said: "Volunteers from St Michael's Hospice and the Harveys team created a great atmosphere. Customers certainly supported the charity; their generosity will help the important work they do."

• Basingstoke Harveys Furniture staff with St Michael's Hospice volunteers at the store's official opening.

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Alert issued as strike action looms

HAMPSHIRE County Council has been advising the region's schools about the implications of a possible day of industrial action next Wednesday.

The potential strike is as a result of the NUT teacher union's on-going dispute with the government with regards to reforms to the education sector, as well as teachers' pay, conditions and pensions.

And the council has written to all of the head teachers in its jurisdiction, providing information for staff about the implications of taking part in industrial action next week.

Head teachers will also be asked to judge whether they will need to close or partially close their school as a result.

Cllr Peter Edgar, the council's executive member for education, said: "I hope the decision of the union to ask their members to take part in a day of industrial action next week does not lead to widespread disruption to pupils' education.

"Any decisions to close schools will be for individual head teachers and their governing bodies to make.

"Staff who do strike will not be paid for that day in accordance with nationally set legislation.

"As always, the council's primary concern is for the education and welfare of children."

Answers sought over field plans

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

· Paul Harvey, with Brookvale ward member Jack Cousens and Mike Westbrook at Saunders field

THE council needs to clarify once and for all its intentions with Saunders Field in Basingstoke.

That's the message from residents and councillors concerned that the land has been listed as part of the Basingstoke Leisure Park regeneration plans.

The field is technically in South Ham ward, but one of the nearest communities affected is Brookvale.

Paul Harvey, deputy leader of the borough council's Labour group, called for residents to be reassured of the council's intentions.

"The field is where the River Loddon rises in Basingstoke," said Cllr Harvey. "We want it protected as a flood plain, as the open field that it is, in order that the River Loddon can rise and naturally find its surface in the middle of Basingstoke.

"That's really important, considering all the floods we've had recently, and considering the importance of keeping the Loddon running safely.

"At the moment, there's nothing public, there's nothing that says 'yes, we will protect it'.

"And that's what we want – a clear, unambiguous, absolute commitment from the council, saying they will protect this field from development of any kind."

Cllr Harvey added that, after he and other councillors have spoken to Brookvale residents, the consensus is against development on the site.

"Anybody who we have spoken to, nobody can see any sense in why this has been included in the regeneration plans – unless somebody has a plan that we don't know about. It makes no sense at all. The council has been publicly challenged on this and there hasn't been a commitment.

"The residents need to be reassured."

BDBC's cabinet endorse the Leisure Park strategy in October 2012, with the report stating stand alone commercial development "should not be provided on this site alone, although the site should be considered in the overall context of proposals for the park".

"Any proposals for Saunders Field would be expected to be treated sensitively and have full regard to the land's flood plain status, the impact on the River Loddon and the impact and contribution to the green infrastructure of the surrounding area," said the report.

A BDBC statement added: "The strategy... specifically refers to how this area of land should be treated sensitively since it is recognised the site lies within the floodplain and contains the headwaters of the River Loddon."

Have your say on care provisions

RESIDENTS in Hampshire will soon be able to give their views on care provision and support offered to people with a physical, neurological or sensory impairment.

Hampshire County Council is launching a Positive Partnership that will be designed around people's needs to provide the right sort of care, and has started a consultation period to discuss how it will operate in the area.

The council will also be working with carers, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and service providers to set up the partnership.

Cllr Liz Fairhurst, executive member for adult social care and public health, believes that people want to have choice and control in the care and support the receive.

She said: "It is important that this partnership is based on the views of people receiving care and providing and commissioning care.

"People want to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible, and we want this partnership to truly reflect the needs and expectations of people living with an impairment."

John Evans OBE left his social services funded home 30 years ago to live independently, and has devoted his life to campaigning for disability rights.

He said: "I have seen independent living transform the lives of many disabled people, and Hampshire should be proud for supporting it from the beginning."

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More complex issues include an Engine Control Unit (ECU) remapping service which makes the vehicle more responsive and smoother to driver. In these tough time, it also slightly increases the miles-per-gallon!

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Green group meets to plan for the future

A PRO-RENEWABLE energy group has held its first meeting for members and supporters this month.

Hampshire Renewable Energy Co-operative (HREC) is a group for people supporting energy generation projects in the county, such as the Bullington Cross Wind Farm proposals.

Martin Heath, HREC director, said: "We were particularly impressed by the amount of enthusiasm amongst the membership for us to press forward with some of our smaller scale projects, as well as the high levels of continued and sustained support we have for the proposed Bullington Cross Wind Farm."

HREC was set up to create a range of renewable energy generation facilities throughout Hampshire.

The group has to date focused on gaining support for the proposed Bullington Cross Wind Farm.

It plans to own 10 per cent of the wind farm under its community ownership scheme.

Over 1,300 residents have emailed or written to local councils supporting the wind farm.

"It's imperative for the future of the co-op and green energy in Hampshire that we find more supporters, members and volunteers to join in with a variety of community events across the county this year," added Mr Heath.

Interested parties are invited to contact the group via the website www.hampshire-energy.co.uk.

We've improved - cricketer Dan

BASINGSTOKE cricketer Dan Reynaldo insists lightning won't strike twice in Dubai this month as he and England head back to the UAE much-improved from their last trip in 2012.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Off-spinner Reynaldo is part of a 15-strong England Physical Disability squad for their second-ever international tour, which sees them play a six-match ODI and T20 series against Pakistan.

The 18-year-old Basingstoke College of Technology pupil isn't heading into the unknown however, having been a part of England's maiden tour to Dubai two years ago.

On that occasion Reynaldo and England secured an ODI victory against Pakistan but were eventually beaten by their more experienced opponents in both that series and the T20 contests.

Two years on, and with six new faces in the touring party, Reynaldo is hoping to see England exact some revenge – the teenager grateful for his previous experience.

"It was great to be told that I would be touring Dubai again," said Reynaldo. "A lot of hard work had gone in before the squad was announced and it was good that it all paid off.

"I'm very proud to play for England. Obviously there's a lot of hard work that goes with it and there's always younger players coming through so I need to stay on top of my game all of the time."

Ahead of his second England tour, Reynaldo knows he has come a long way since being introduced to the sport while at Rucstall Primary School.

"My granddad Michael Ventress took me along to a summer camp at my local club. I then moved to Stratfield Turgis and I've played there ever since.

"I have a deformed left hand, which affects the batting and fielding aspects of my cricket. Having been born with it I've learned to adapt.

"Last time we were in Dubai we were out there with the senior England squad, so we had a training session with a lot of them which was an once-in-a-lifetime thing.

"It was their attitude and approach that inspired me. There's a serious side to the game but enjoyment is a massive part of sport."

Follow the England Physical Disability squad in the UAE at www.ecb.co.uk.

• Dan Reynaldo

News Bites

Cops interrupt an illegal rave

POLICE broke up an illegal rave near Kingsclere late on Sunday afternoon, seizing music equipment and arresting two men in the process.

Between 20 and 25 people gathered at the Ibworth site, which was cleared by police by 7.30pm.

The two arrested men, aged 22 and 19, have been bailed until April 15.

Inspector Jon Turton, who led the response, said: "These type of illegal gatherings cause disruption and distress to local communities and anyone organising or attending such an event runs the risk of gaining a criminal record."

Basingstoke in WW1 appeal

THE borough council is looking for people whose relatives were killed in the Great War.

Descendants are encouraged to contact BDBC so they can be invited to special events the council has planned to mark the centenary.

A commemorative service will be held at St Michael's Church in August to mark the centenary of the start of WW1.

The council will also be holding special Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Basingstoke's mayor, Cllr Dan Putty, said: "These commemorative events aim to bring the stories of the First World War closer to today's generations, and to ensure that we don't forget the sacrifices made."

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Village among best places to live in UK

ODIHAM has been named among the best places to live in the UK in a recent nationwide poll.

Last weekend, the Sunday Times published its annual top 101 places to live in the UK.

The table is compiled based on crime statistics, house prices, school performance and experiences of the paper's contributors in the areas.

The selected locations scored highly in each of these categories, while also offering "the best quality of life to the widest number of people".

Odiham is one of 14 places in the south east to make the list, the only other Hampshire nominee being Stockbridge.

Home Editor Helen Davies said: "The Best Places guide is dedicated to celebrating Britain's abundance of great cities, towns and villages.

"We combine in-depth data with first-hand personal experience to produce an authoritative list.

"There are lots of places across Britain that are worth celebrating, and everyone has different priorities.

"So this year our supplements cover everything from the countryside through to the inner-cities."

Tackling truancy in the borough

AUTHORITIES are stepping up their efforts to tackle truancy in Basingstoke and Deane.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Six unannounced attendance days will take place over the next year in a bid to reduce absence from schools in the area.

It builds on a successful attendance week held in October last year when there was a 25 per cent reduction in absence rates compared to the same week in 2012.

The county council are teaming up with the police, the borough council, Basingstoke Voluntary Services, and the School Nursing Team for the scheme.

Councillor Keith Mans, Hampshire County Council's member for Children's Services, said: "In line with the rest of the county, Basingstoke and Deane have good school attendance rates compared to national averages.

"But, just as in other areas of the county, there is a very small minority of children who are persistently absent from school.

"Through the Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme, this multi-agency initiative is about focusing on that minority and working together with their parents to find out the underlying reasons for frequent absence and providing appropriate support to ensure children go to school each day as they should do.

"Regular school attendance is crucial to helping ensure a child has the best possible start in life.

"Children who miss school frequently for reasons other than serious illness are at greater risk of falling behind with their studies and not achieving as well in their exams as their peers.

"This in turn can have a negative impact on their future and restrict the range of choices open to them for further education, training and employment."

At the request of schools, the partners will visit homes of children who have not turned up for school and whose absence has not been reported.

The home visits will help to establish any underlying reasons why a child may be consistently absent from school and identify support for the child and the family.

Checks will also be made around shopping centres, parks and other recreational areas where youngsters may congregate when they are truant.

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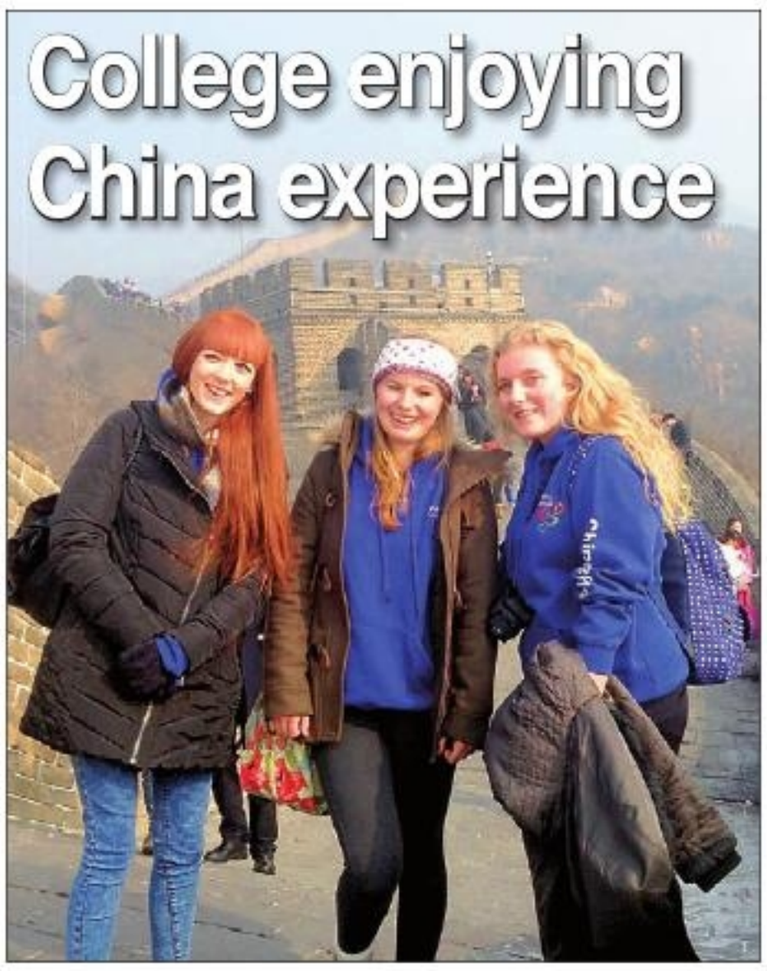
College enjoying China experience



STUDENTS from Alton College have experienced teenage life in China, as part of a homestay exchange programme in anticipation of Chinese students coming to study in Alton from next year.

Seventeen students and three staff visited Beijing, Suzhou and Shanghai during the trip, going to a number of major landmarks and attractions during that time.

They also got to see lessons at Xinghua High School, and spent three nights at the homes for Chinese families.

Ben Mackrell, one of the students on the trip, said: "It was a great experience and I would advise anyone to visit China if the opportunity arises.

"To understand and learn the Chinese culture and education system was enlightening, and I feel the Chinese students will enjoy their time here very much too."

Alton College's international manager Andrew Cox added: "Our students clearly found the whole experience wonderfully enriching, and learned so much about what Chinese culture has to offer.

"In addition, they were able to act as ambassadors for the college, helping us in our strategy to attract students from our partner schools to complete their studies with us here in Alton."

· Students from Alton College visited China during half term week

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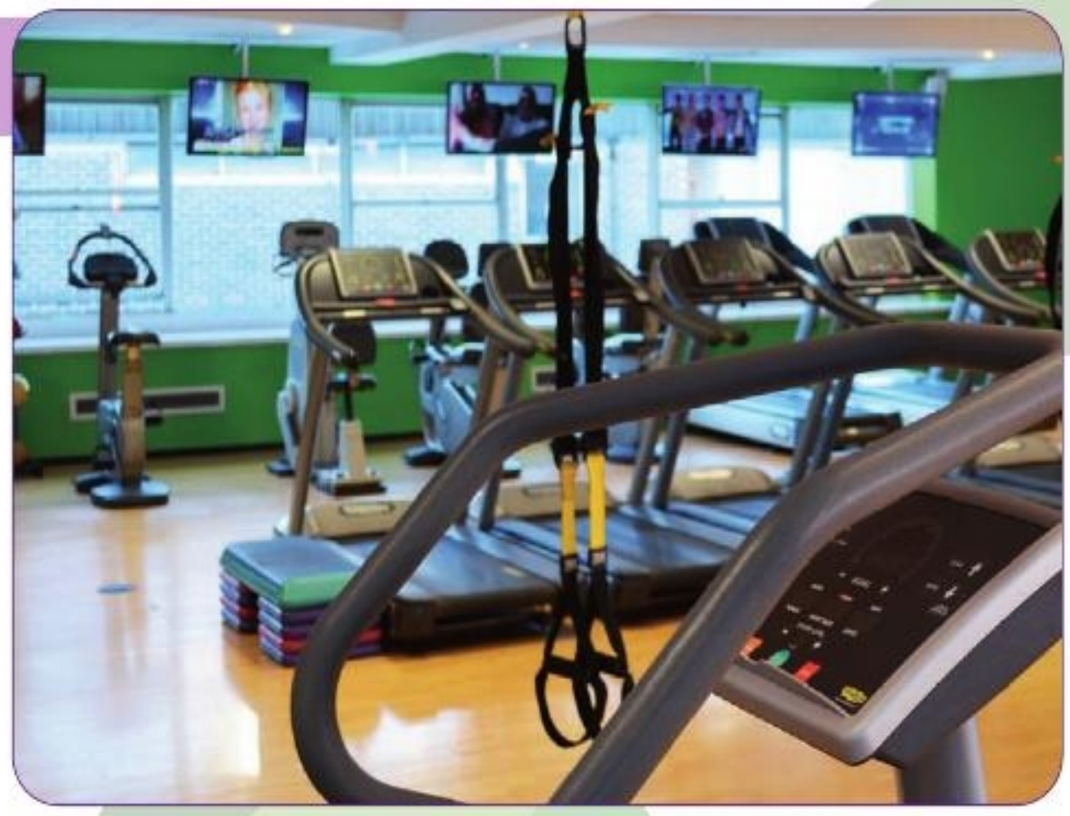

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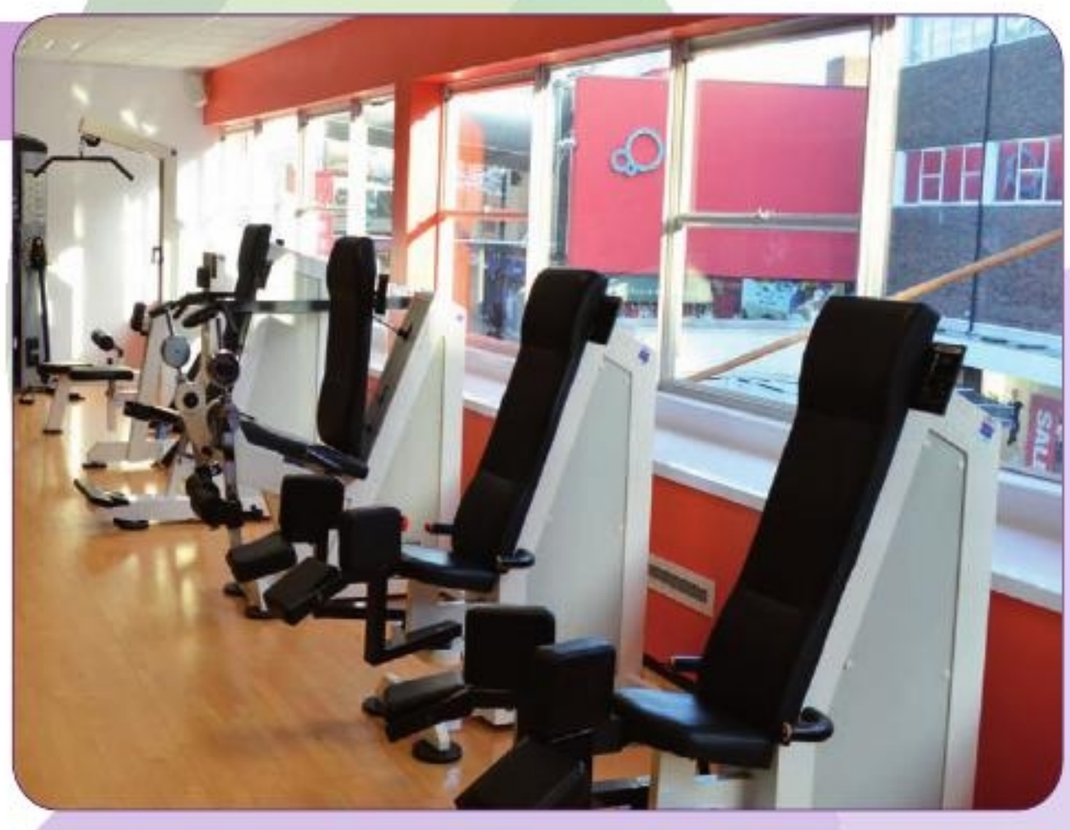

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Flood clean-up costs estimated at £36m

THE county council has pledged to commit 60 per cent more workers to repairing the damage created by the recent flooding.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

'Pothole Buster' signs will be appearing on Hampshire roads, and 80 'gangs' of workers will be tackling emergency repairs in areas that have been worst hit across the county.

For Basingstoke, this is Buckskin, where dozens of homes were forced to be evacuated due to the rising waters earlier this year.

It is estimated the clean-up efforts across the county could reach £36million, not counting flood alleviation schemes.

Councillor Seán Woodward, member for Economy, Transport and Environment, said: "We are reprioritising all repairs to the worst affected roads so that we tackle the most serious defects first.

"These extra gangs, extra equipment and additional signing will be put in place and work will begin immediately on priority areas."

"As well as the 300 locations where the more extensive structural repair work is needed, we also expect that there will be a number of sites where some form of drainage improvements will be needed to avoid future flooding of the road.

"Additionally, we have yet to assess the damage to bridge structures, which we plan to do using underwater divers once river levels have gone down.

"The proactive planned maintenance programme we have for the coming financial year will also be reprioritised.

"However, the work that was due to start in the first three months will need to go ahead as planned as time is needed to design and plan the new works programme.

"We are waiting to hear from government the details of Hampshire's allocation of extra funding announced earlier this week to repair the roads damaged by the winter weather.

"However, with our repair bill running at up to £36m, and the government's extra funding of around £80m nationally, we are likely to be facing a huge shortfall in funding to get our roads back even to the condition they were in before the flooding.

"In the meantime, we are pressing ahead with safety repairs assessments, works planning and deploying extra gangs and resources to ensure we can keep Hampshire moving."

Charity meal raises £300 for allotment fund

AN ALLOTMENT group has rallied to raise £300 for its organisation by having a charity meal fundraiser at a nearby restaurant.

Thirty-seven members of the self-funded Hook Allotments Association tucked into a buffet at the Gate of India in Hook Common, while also holding a raffle.

The money will go towards buying more land for its members.

"We need to raise funds in order to buy the allotment land in Hook," said Sophie Bergh of the association.

"Events like this, supported by our members, are an excellent way of combining an enjoyable social evening with fundraising.

"We are looked after so well by Jamal and his staff and we are grateful for the Gate of India's continued involvement and generosity."

In December 2013 the committee voted to purchase another one-and-a-half acres of land at Hook Cross.

This means in three years the community has raised money to buy four out of the 5.38 acres it is committed to purchase.

For more information about Hook Allotment Association visit www.hookallotments.ning.com.

· Martin Hill from Black Dam, Basingstoke, with restaurant owner Shmasu Uddin Jamal during the charity meal

Free lens tests at opticians' re-opening

A BASINGSTOKE opticians will be re-opened tomorrow, and is giving people the chance to pop in for a free contact lens test.

Basingstoke mayor, Councillor Dan Putty, will do the re-opening honours at Chineham Centre Opticians tomorrow at 10am.

And during tomorrow and Saturday, people can undergo a contact lens assessment free of charge.

Chris Cox, who has owned the business since 2006, is hoping to become the town's contact lens specialists after teaming up with Norwich-based Oculus Contact Lens Centres.

"With the support and training we're getting as part of the Oculus network, we now have the skills and expertise to fit the latest lenses on the market," said Chris.

"So our patients will have the choice to wear spectacles or contact lenses, or both! Our aim is simple; to be known as the experts in contact lenses in Basingstoke.

"In addition to continuing to support our spectacle wearing patients, we're committed to offering people the best possible contact lens service.

"We won't charge until we've found the perfect lens for them and I'm confident that existing and new patients will respond well to this approach."

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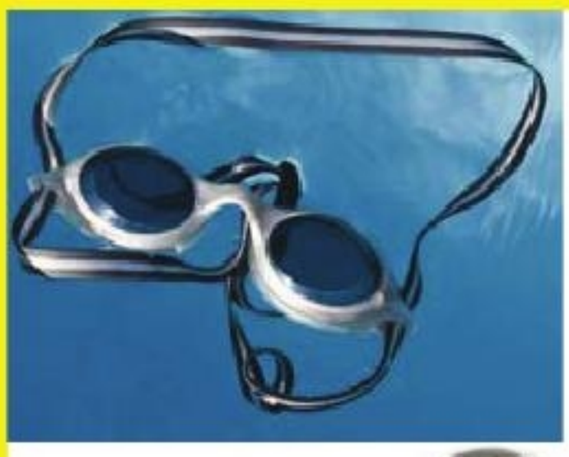

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Top Brownie leader gets highest accolade

A BROWNIE Leader from Basingstoke is poised to make her mark on the next generation of leaders after earning the charity's highest accolade – the Queen's Guide Award.

Sacha Wason, 24, a leader at the 10th Basingstoke All Saints Brownies, has dedicated more than a year to working towards guiding's top award – a feat achieved by only a handful of Girlguiding's half a million members annually.

The Queen's Guide Award challenges women aged 16 to 25 to complete a series of demanding tasks and community projects.

Among the tasks Sacha chose to tackle included a four-day trek in the Cotswolds – braving bad weather conditions and organising a huge fun day for around 60 Brownies.

• Sacha Wason receiving her award from Chief Guide Gill Slocombe.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

She received her award from Baroness Hilary Armstrong and Chief Guide Gill Slocombe at a special ceremony in the House of Lords on March 11.

Sacha, a government scientist, said: "I have proven to myself that I can work very effectively under pressure, and enjoy it!

"It has given me the confidence to take on new challenges and to push myself to further my skills."

Gill said: "Girlguiding's research shows most girls aged 16 to 21 – 58 per cent - aspire to take on leadership roles in their future careers, but they need to see more inspiring women at the top to give them the confidence to do so.

"The Queen's Guide is all about showing young women that this is possible, that they have the potential to take on any challenge the world throws at them and become tomorrow's leaders in all walks of life."

Baroness Armstrong added: "The young women who have achieved this extraordinary award should be very proud."

Schoolboy's science club rockets to success

A SCIENCE-MAD Basingstoke schoolboy has been given a special award for his commitment to the subject.

Nine-year-old Charlie Willmott, a pupil at North Waltham Primary School, has been presented with a special achievement award by Aldermaston's Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), after setting up a lunchtime science club.

A team from the facility paid a visit to the school and performed a series of scientific experiments for the students.

Charlie has a history of designing and carrying out his own experiments, and has been known to launch rockets over the school building in demonstrations to classmates.

AWE radiochemist, Darrell Knight, said: "The fact that Charlie organised this club himself shows his dedication to science.

"His enthusiasm shone through even in these sessions. I think at one point I offered him a job!"

Head teacher Jeff Maidment, said: "The graduates and presenters have brought science to life in the classroom in an interactive and fun way. The visit left the pupils very engaged and buzzing with excitement."

• **North Waltham Primary Science Club with AWE scientist, Darrell Knight (centre left) and award winner Charlie Willmott (centre right)**

News Bites

Valuable advice

POLICE have issued warnings to motorists about leaving their cars unsecured while enjoying the beauty spots of northern Hampshire.

Officers are particularly keen to emphasise the dangers of leaving valuables on display while out in the countryside.

Historically, the force sees a rise in thefts from beauty spot car parks during the spring and summer months when more people are out and about.

Did you win?

ST MICHAEL'S Hospice has announced the results of its draw from Friday, March 14.

First prize of £1,000 goes to 40456 of Rookswood, while second prize of £100 is claimed by Tadley ticket 48377.

The £50 third prize is awarded to 39043 of North Waltham, and Newbury ticket 79437 collects fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen prizes of £5 are awarded to 08405, 10765, 17205, 23528, 28035, 50640, 59306, 62162, 64143, 71700, 78443, 80105, 81193, 85312, 87303 and 87517.

Charity car wash

BASINGSTOKE'S fire crews are hosting a car wash at the town's fire station next Saturday to raise funds for the Fire Fighters charity.

Andy Bowers, of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The National Car Wash gives our firefighters the opportunity to share important safety messages with members of the community."

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An exploration

THE second performance of Queen Mary's College students' show Choreographic Exploration takes place this evening, demonstrating a mix of dance routines to be used in their exam.

This is followed next Wednesday and Thursday by Directors Pieces 2, as students perform a range of extracts from their classical and contemporary repertoire.

More information is available at www.centralstudio.co.uk.

Good Ol Boys

WEYBROOK Park Golf Club is host to an American diner-themed rock night tomorrow evening, with live music from The Good Ol Boys.

Tickets cost £5 per person on the door from 7pm, and more details can be found at www.weybrookpark.co.uk.

About town

BASINGSTOKE Discovery Centre is inviting residents to learn more about the town with a fun and informative walk around the area.

Hidden Basingstoke is set to reveal some of the lesser-known facts about the town, for a classic introduction to Basingstoke's history.

The walk starts at 11am on Tuesday, and it costs £3 to take part.

Youngsters find Fame!

ATTRACTING plenty of attention in Festival Place on Saturday afternoon were the youngsters from the BAOS Limelight theatre group, promoting their forthcoming production of Fame Jr.

By **Jaqui Ball**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Their song and dance routines were rewarded with applause from on-lookers, a potential new booking, and at least one possible new member for the group.

Fame Jr is the bittersweet story of a group of students at New York City's celebrated High School for the Performing Arts in the 1980s.

The students are starry eyed and hopeful - and haven't the faintest idea just how hard the next four years will be.

Along the way, friendships develop, ambitions are realised and the kids learn a lot about themselves and each other.

What better choice of production for the stage-struck Limelighters!

The BAOS Limelight production of Fame Jr is at the Everest Community Academy on April 26 and 27. The Saturday performances start at 3.30pm and 7pm, while the Sunday matinee performance begins at 2pm.

The toe-tapping music and clever lyrics will bring memories of the '80s flooding back, and there's a sing-along at the end of the Saturday night performance to release your inner performer.

Fourteen year old Connor McGrane, a pupil at Bishop Challoner School, is one of the youngsters from BAOS Limelight.

He said: "It's been fun playing Horton the Elephant because it's completely different to playing a human. I have to lollop instead of walk and all my movements are more exaggerated. It's definitely a challenge but I really enjoy it.

"I also love his character. He's so loyal to the Whos and doesn't take notice of what anybody else says. He's determined to save them no matter what happens."

Tickets are priced at £10 for adults and £7.50 for children, and are available from www.baoslimelight.ticketsource.co.uk or by calling 01256 763127.

For further information about the group, including upcoming performances, visit their page on the BAOS website www.baos.org/limelight, or follow the group on Twitter: @BAOSLimelight.

• ***Youngsters from BAOS Limelight took part in song and dance routines in Festival Place at the weekend, ahead of their forthcoming production of Fame Jr***

Enlightenment

THE music of Corelli, Vivaldi and Bach will be performed at The Anvil tomorrow, as part of a concert staged by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

This concert looks at the role of the violoncello da spalla, a forerunner of the cello that is played like a giant violin, with conductor Sigiswalk Kuijken at the forefront of its revival.

Further details can be found at www.anvilarts.org.uk.

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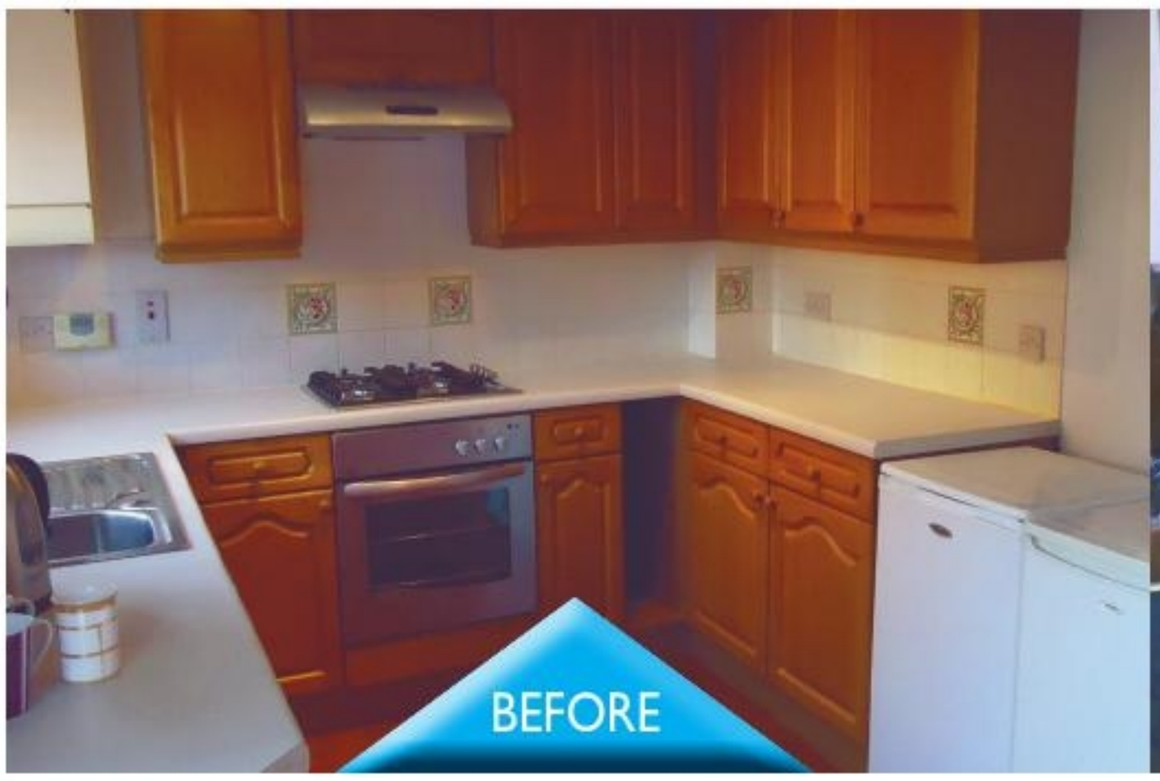

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Full of wonder

COMEDIAN Kerry Godliman comes to The Forge on Sunday, following the success of her Edinburgh Festival show 'Wonder Woman' and support role of Micky Flanagan.

Kerry has numerous television credits from recent years, with appearances on shows such as 'Live at the Apollo', 'Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow', and sitcoms 'Derek', 'Miranda' and 'Extras'.

Mitch Benn

MITCH Benn is the 37th Beatle, according to the title of his new stand-up comedy show coming to Central Studio tomorrow evening.

Many people have claimed to be the fifth Beatle, but they can't all be right, and Mitch discusses his Scouse upbringing and his obsession with the legendary group in his new tour.

Junior festival

THE Berkshire Maestros Newbury Music Centre stage their annual Junior Music Festival at The Anvil on Tuesday and Wednesday, featuring 800 children from the local area.

A massed choir will perform 'The Mighty Mississippi, which has been written by local composer Gwyn Arch to tell the history of the city of New Orleans.

It's a modern tribute

COMEDY musical production Thoroughly Modern Millie comes to The Haymarket from Tuesday, presented by local musical group BAOS (Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society).

The show is based on the 1967 film that starred Julie Andrews, Carol Channing and Mary Tyler Moore, and describes itself as 'a toe-tapping tribute to the fun of the flapper era'.

It's set in the early 1920s and follows the story of Millie Dillmount, a small town girl who travels to New York with a mission to marry her boss.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

But that changes when she meets the charming Jimmy Smith, but there is more to him than meets the eye and Millie has to reconsider what she wants in life.

"There's lots and lots of stories going on within the show," said Stephanie Webb, an actress and chairman of BAOS. "It was set around the flapper era, there's lots of tap dance numbers in it, as well as lively song and dance routines so that's nice for the audience coming to see it. There's going to be amazing costumes, a beautiful set, and I think a very good show."

However the show will also be tinged with sadness, following the death of long-serving BAOS member Julie Sutton, 42, earlier this month.

"Julie would have wanted the show to go on and that's precisely what we're doing," said Stephanie.

"She was heavily involved in the society for 14 years, and if she wasn't on stage she was always sourcing props, a real had worker for BAOS.

"When we got the news we were about to do a full rehearsal, and I'm superbly proud of the company for getting through that evening, given that there were tears and heartache to deal with. They pulled together and that's what makes BAOS a great company."

The show is running from Tuesday until Saturday. To book, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk.

• ***BAOS performers have been busy rehearsing for the new show, coming to The Haymarket from Tuesday***

Getting active

LOCAL businesses and agencies are joining together to offer taster sessions in pampering treatments, physical activities and crafts, at a Wellbeing and Leisure Fair taking place on Saturday.

The free event will let people sample and find out what activities are available to them, as well as discovering new ways of improving their wellbeing.

It is taking place at The Roger Morris Community Centre, Eastrop Way, from 11am to 3pm.

Basingstoke Observer
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EIGHT GREAT IDEAS TO TREAT MUM

30TH MARCH 14

Wellbeing for Mothers Day

Give yourself the gift of wellbeing this Mother's Day. Experts share their personal tips with Abi Jackson - and show that you don't need lots of money and endless spare time to boost the feel-good factor.

By Abi Jackson

DR Sam Christie is a nutrition expert for Nature's Best (www.naturesbest.co.uk) and has two kids, aged eight and three. "My go-to relaxation indulgence is a twice-weekly, relaxing, essential oil body massage. Utter bliss. The children call it 'pongy' bath night! Combine relaxing essential oil in your hands before massaging slowly into the neck, shoulders and soles of your feet. A full body massage is even more sumptuous if you have more time after a bath."

Natascha Mozley is a knitting expert at Love Knitting (www.loveknitting.com) and mum to a nine and 15-year-old "Knitting is my 'me', and my 'me and them' time. Knitting allows me to switch off and unwind once the children are in bed, and the time I've spent teaching the children to knit is equally valuable - they've benefitted in a number of ways, from improved maths skills to better focus and concentration too."

Danielle Collins is a world-leading Face Yoga coach (www.faceyogaexpert.com) and is a mum to 17-month-old Lucia. "Allow yourself just 20 minutes a day to help revitalise a tired mind, body and face. Yoga and Pilates are great choices as they help to tone, sculpt and relax your body whilst helping you feel calmer and more energised. I also take 10 minutes to do some Face Yoga to help smooth, lift and detox my skin. Make this a daily habit - and never feel guilty taking this little bit of time each day to look after you!"

Lucy Paltnoi is an intuitive consultant and energy healer, specialising in working with mums and babies (www.lifeisenergii.com). She has a 14-month-old daughter. "A quick five-minute meditation during my baby's morning nap centres me for the day ahead. I find the best methods are simple and quick. Seated on a chair with my back supported, I set a timer, close my eyes and take three deep breaths to a count of three. I then gently let my mind still itself. Afterwards, I feel calm, re-energised and focused. Meditation also helps lower blood pressure and improve brain function. It's free and a great way to reclaim time for yourself on a daily basis."

Maya Haiman-Eilon is co-director of Pilates on Demand (www.pilatesod.com) and has three children, aged eight, six and nine-months. "I've been doing Pilates for more than 10 years and love it, but finding time for a class can be tricky. Being able to work-out at home makes all the difference and even 10 minutes can really boost wellbeing. I make an 'appointment' with myself and do a 10-minute class on my laptop in those in-between moments, like after the school run or when I'm taking a break from the computer. These short work-outs that I sneak in during the day improve my posture, release tension from my neck and shoulders and improve my core strength. But most importantly they enhance my sense of achievement for exercising despite time pressures, and make me happier!"

Emma Wight-Boycott is a nutritionist and natural health expert (www.emmanutrition.com) and has two sons, aged one and three years. "I take a class once a week that's not focused on building muscle or endurance, but on zoning out. Sometimes a dance class, sometimes yoga or Pilates. Whatever I feel like that takes my brain away for

• *Emma Wight-Boycott, nutritionist and natural health expert (www.emmanutrition.com) PA Photo/ Handout*

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A perfect Mothering Sunday

Eight great ideas to treat mum

30th March 14

an hour or two. Focussing the brain on one task at a time is something we rarely do these days, but it's important for relaxation and inducing beta brain waves, the ones that chill us out."

Dr Rebecca Chicot is a child development expert and co-creator of the Essential Baby Care Guide apps and DVDs (£19.99 for full guide, Tesco). Her three kids are 10, seven and five. "Learn from your child's insatiable curiosity. Instead of rushing along on the same routine route day in day out, I make sure to walk different routes with my children and allow them to set the pace. Walking with your child, noticing the small things as you pass by helps you to share the moment. Your child will love this 'go slow' time and you will feel energised by them and the change from the humdrum."

Dr Davina Deniszczyc is wellbeing medical director for Nuffield Health, and has a 15-month-old son. "I work long hours and get mothers' guilt, but, as a GP, I know I'm not alone: the majority of working mums feel this and it's normal, as long as you make the most of the time you do have with family. I try to make a conscious effort to stop and appreciate the now, rather than worrying or feeling guilty about what I can't achieve. My son's just got into dancing and this is a huge boost for us both. We put on music and have a boogie. It gets my heart rate up and de-stresses me."

Dr Davina Deniszczyc, wellbeing medical director for Nuffield Health. PA Photo/Handout.

Louisa Van Den Bergh is founder of Lulubaby antenatal courses (www.lulubaby.co.uk) and has two boys aged five and seven. "Every afternoon, I sit down with the boys and have a cup of tea (and often a cheeky chocolate bar) with them as they eat their meal. This is a precious moment in the day, enjoying a simple pleasure like a cup of tea; it takes my mind off all the chores still to be done and gives me a moment to focus both on the boys but also myself, as I have a relatively peaceful moment before tidying up and the bedtime routine cranks into gear."

Rebecca McCheyne is group digital services director at Nuffield Health and has two daughters, aged 10 and 12. "I try to get a quick run in each week as this really gives me a boost, but I also know the value of being with people I love. A quick catch-up with friends will ultimately result in laughter. I also feel really relaxed when I'm singing in the car with my daughters, they love music and are the only ones I can really let go with."

Cheryl Rickman is author of The Flourish Handbook (www.flourish-handbook.com) and mum to a five-year-old daughter. "Every other day, between the school run and work, I go for a 20-minute gratitude walk. Walking along, listing all the things you're grateful for helps you focus on what you have, rather than what you lack, and enables you to park your worries (or come up with creative solutions to deal with them). Walking gives you space to move freely and breathing

space to think. It also boosts stress-easing endorphins, increases circulation and reduces fatigue. I always breeze in after my gratitude walk feeling energised, uplifted and ready for the day."

Amanda-Jane Sopp is a sleep and CBT expert and clinical hypnotherapist (mindsetandsolutions.com) and has four kids, aged 27, 26, 23 and 11, and a 13-year-old step-son. "Slow down and live in the now - if we fully concentrate on the task in hand and not allow our minds to wander to all the other things we needs to do, we'll be more effective and productive. Also, so many mums eat on the run or miss meals, but taking a small amount of time to eat breakfast and a healthy lunch helps us maintain the energy required to keep on top of things. Take a break each day to stop, sit down and rest, even if it's only for 10 minutes, and do nothing. This can reduce the adrenaline running through the body and you'll feel calmer."

• *Above: Amanda-Jane Sopp is a sleep and CBT expert and clinical hypnotherapist (mindsetandsolutions.com). PA Photo/Handout.*
• *A baby crawling across the floor while his mother meditates. PA Photo/thinkstockphotos.*

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19 Mar 2014 - 23 Mar 2014, 7:30pm
The Haymarket
ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE
Kath and her elderly father Kemp live in a house on the outskirts of a rubbish dump. Their drab existence is interrupted by the arrival of a new lodger, the enigmatic Mr Sloane. Provocative and sexuallyambiguous, Sloane soon has both Kath and her brother Ed competing for his favours. But all is not as it seems. Behind Sloane's nonchalant demeanour lies a calculating psychopath with a dark and secretive past. Seduction, blackmail and murder lie waiting in the wings.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

20 Mar 2014, 7:30pm
The Anvil
TOM PAXTON AND JANIS IAN TOGETHER AT LAST
Both Tom and Janis have ties to the classic Greenwich Village folk scene, yet they are nearly a generation apart. They share a slew of folk influences as well as an affinity for fearlessly tackling controversial issues.
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20 March 2014, 7pm - 10pm
The Ark Conference Centre in Basingstoke
INDIAN FILM AND SUPPER NIGHT
"Pelican Cancer Foundation is hosting a fundraising event, a private viewing of 2013's critically acclaimed British-Asian comedy Jadoo.

21 Mar 2014, 7:45pm
The Anvil
ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT
The programme features two of Bach's masterpieces, his Double Violin Concerto and Brandenburg Concertos Nos 3 and 6. However, the real gamechanger on the programme is the rare concerto for the now 'extinct' violoncello da spalla, a piece which lay forgotten until as recently as 2004.
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22 Mar 2014 - 23 Mar 2014, 10am - 3pm
Newlyns Farm Shop and cafe
NEWLYNS 10TH ANNIVERSARY LAMBING WEEKEND
Newlyns Farm Shop and Café will be celebrating their tenth anniversary with a lambing weekend on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March. Opening times are 10am to 3pm and entry cost is £3, children under 3 free. There will be lots to do and see including feeding the lambs, sheep racing, sheep dog displays and a hog roast and barbecue. The shop will be re-opening after extensive refurbishment creating a larger butchery department, an extended delicatessen counter and larger farm café.
01256 704128 www.newlyns-farm-shop.co.uk

25 Mar 2014, 7:30pm - 9pm
Church Cottage, Basingstoke
BASINGSTOKE HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
. Andrew Benson-Wilson, founder chairman of the society will talk about the founding of the society and the issues it has faced over the past 25 years. Bill Fergie, who was Director of Planning at that time, will talk about the planning issues he faced 25 years ago. free parking after 7pm, and level access
www.bas-herit-soc.org

28 Mar 2014, 7:30pm
The Anvil
HOT FLUSH
Starring Lesley Joseph. Meet Myra, Sylvia, Helen and Jessica. Share in the friendships, the secrets, the tears, the laughs, and ups and downs of four ordinary women – and one man – living extraordinary lives.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

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29 Mar 2014
The Anvil
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3 Apr 2014, 7:45pm
The Anvil
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4 Apr 2014, 7:45pm
The Anvil
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5 Apr 2014, 7:45pm
The Anvil
ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT
"Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. The thrilling roller-coaster ride is made up of four movements which have a joyous energy and rhythmic impetus, generating enormous power. Followed by Schubert's epic last symphony, number nine. A supremely lyrical and imaginative work; the four movements are built on a grand scale and the musical architecture is handled with great care, yet the whole piece unfurls in one majestic sweep."
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 Apr 2014, 7:45pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road (B3350), Earley Reading
BERKS GP OF HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
A talk by Hilary Newman on Climbers and wall plants.
www.berkshirehps.org.uk

8 Apr 2014, 8:15pm
The Forge
RITA HOSKING
Rita sings original mountain roots music – soulful ballads and old time drive – with a voice that really grabs your attention, a kind of cross between the haunting delivery of Gillian Welch and the richness of Iris Dement.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

11 Apr 2014, 11:30am
The Haymarket
MARTY MACDONALD'S FARM
Marty MacDonald needs your help! He's looking after his uncle's farm but Old MacDonald has left things in a mess – the animals have gone on holiday, the farmyard is topsy-turvy and the crafty crows are eating the crops in front of his eyes!
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

12 Apr 2014, 7:30pm
The Haymarket
THE CHRISTIANS
Tickets for The Christians are priced £21 (includes £1 booking fee).
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

17 Apr 2014, 8pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
ALAN WILLIAMS ACOUSTI-

Single? Your new dates are here THIS WEEKEND!
Have a **great** night out meeting new friends and lots of potential partners at our fun and friendly **singles dating night2!**
THIS SATURDAY! 22nd Mar ages 38+ Basingstoke
THIS SUNDAY! 23rd Mar 30s & 40s Maidenhead
Last few places going FAST !
Info & bookings: 07830 817996
info@datedatedate.co.uk
www.datedatedate.co.uk

INFORMATION DAY
Wednesday 26th March
St. Michaels Church Cottage
Basingstoke, 10.30am – 1pm
Information & Advice from local organisations for older people, their relatives & carers.
01256 423874 for more information
Café open as usual – no parking on site.
AGE concern Hampshire

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NEW LYRICS BY DICK SCANLAN
ORIGINAL STORY AND SCREENPLAY BY RICHARD MORRIS FOR THE UNIVERSAL PICTURES FILM
ORIGINALLY PRODUCED FOR BROADWAY BY MICHAEL LEAVITT FOX THEATRICALS HAL LUFTIG STEWART F. LANE JAMES L. NEDERLANDER INDEPENDENT PRESENTERS NETWORK
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iacf 01636 702326
www.iacf.co.uk

PARK OPENING TIMES

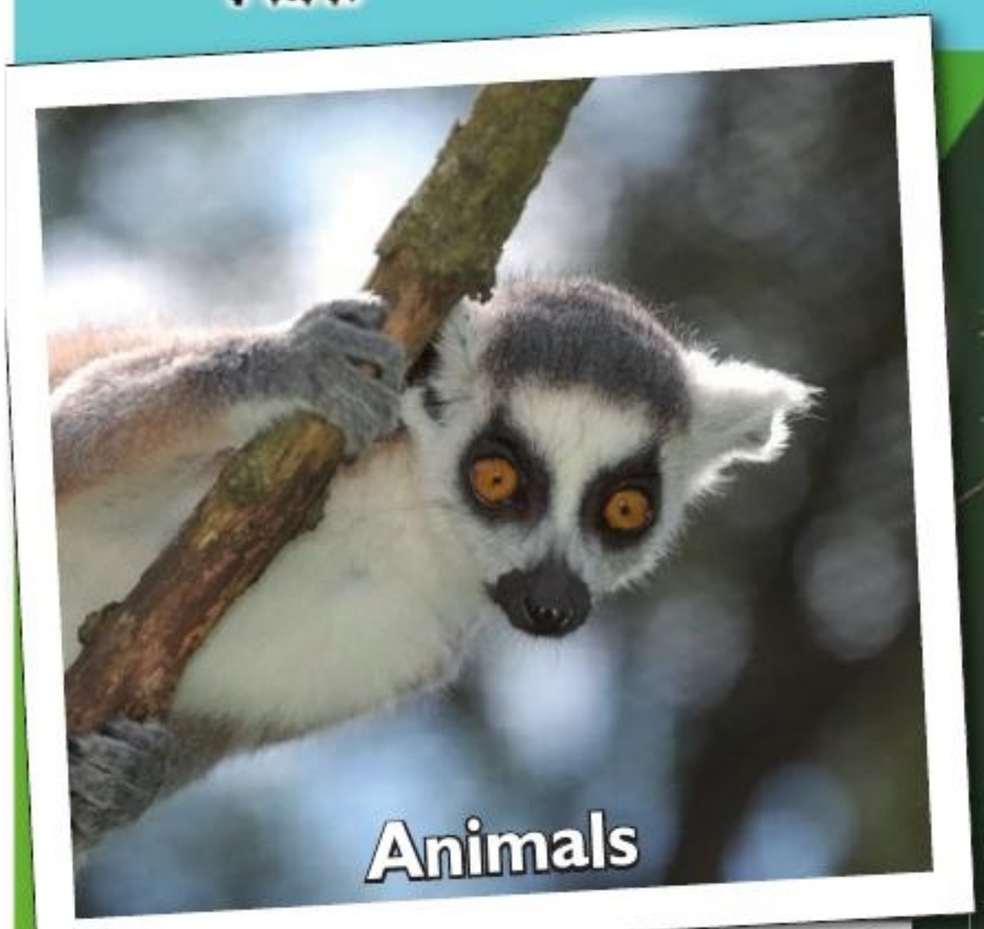
Open daily from 10am
11th February until 4th November 2014

Beale Park

Tel: 0844 826 1761

Group booking rates also available

Seasonal charges apply: see website for further information



www.bealepark.co.uk

Beale Park, Lower Basildon, Reading, Berks RG8 9NW

(Just off Junction 12, M4)

The Child Beale Trust is a Registered Charity No. 300105

www.bealepark.co.uk Beale FUN ZONE

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17 Apr 2014, 8pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
ALAN WILLIAMS ACOUSTICALLY YOURS
Alan Williams, the lead vocalist/guitarist of 70's glam rock icons 'The Rubettes' presents his solo tour where he will lead you through his musical life before, during and after the success years.
01256 418318 www.centralstudio.co.uk

19 Apr 2014, 11am - 3pm
Elizabeth Hall, Raven Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9HH
DOLLY'S EASTER HANDMADE AND VINTAGE FAIR
"Save the date for an Easter extravagance! This is Easter Saturday get your best bonnet ready! Dolly's first trip to hook for a hand made and vintage fair. We have lots of unique and vintage stall holders booked and ready to dazzle you. We will post more details on Dolly's facebook and twitter.
We are raising funds at this events for SANDS the stillbirth and neonatal charity https://www.uk-sands.org/
£1 for adults and children go free" www.dollysvintage.co.uk

Jadoo is a colourful and engaging 10 May 2014 - 17 May 2014, 7pm - 10pm
Tadley Common Methodist Church
TADLEY YOUTH DRAMA PRODUCTION
"Come and watch a uk premier of To The Rescue set inamerica. Refreshments available and a warm welcome awaits
Tickets are £6 and £4 and available from local churches and Helping Hands Charity Shop in Tadley and also on the door. www.tadleyyouthdrama.org.uk / 07443118432

14 May 2014
Princes Hall Aldershot
OMID DJALILI LIVE
01252 329155

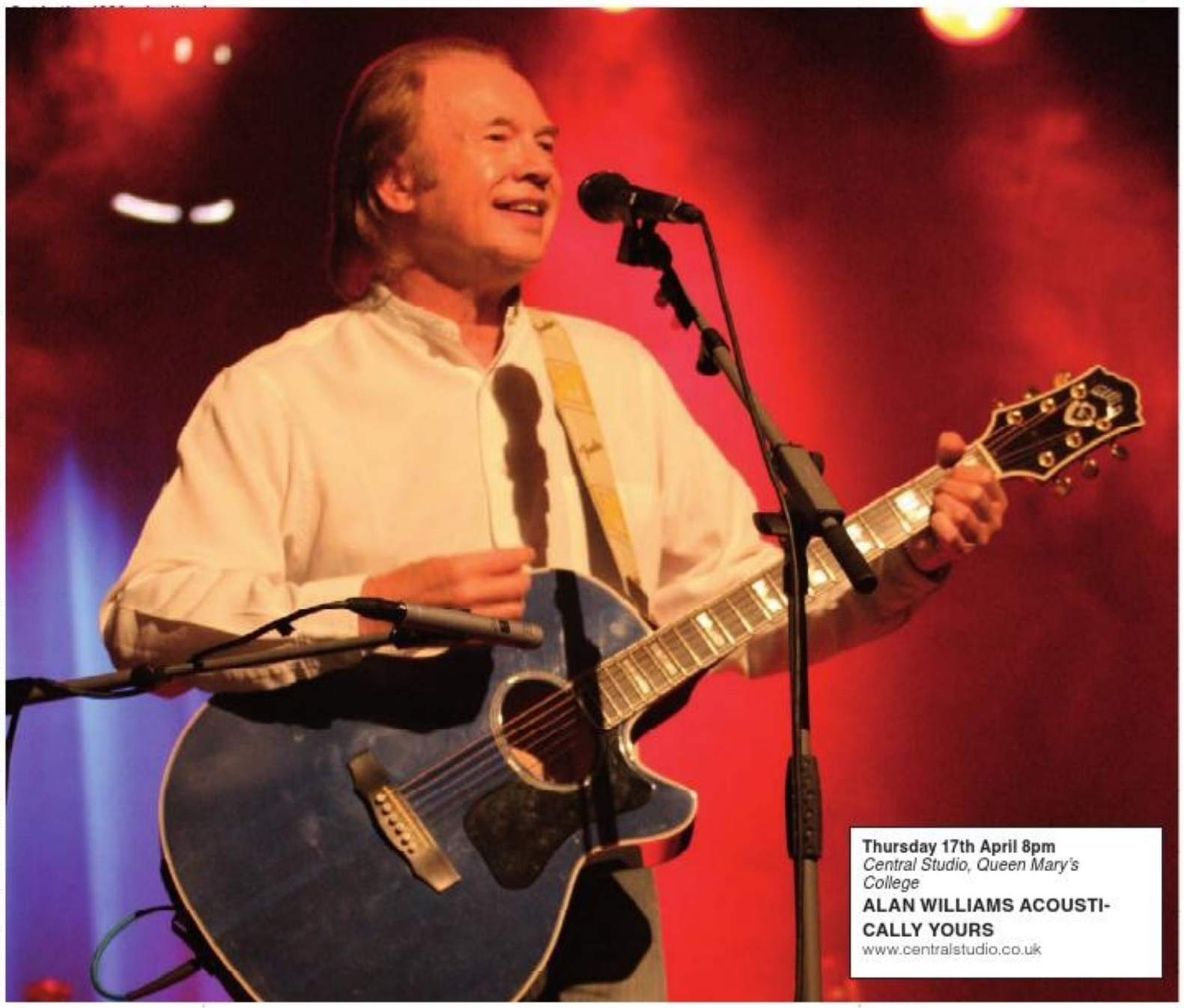
16 May 2014, 7:30pm
Alton Methodist Church
NIGEL OGDEN
from the BBC Radio 2 program "The Organist Entertains"

23 May 2014, 7pm - 12:30am
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke
BLACK TIE CHARITY AUCTION
"Black tie charity auction raising money for the national autistic society, 3 course dinner, wine and disco. Items for auction range from sports memrobila to local spa days, tickets are available at £25.00pp.

3run are the special guests running the auction."
7414915288

23 May 2014
Farnham Maltings
THE RUTLES
www.farnhammaltings.com

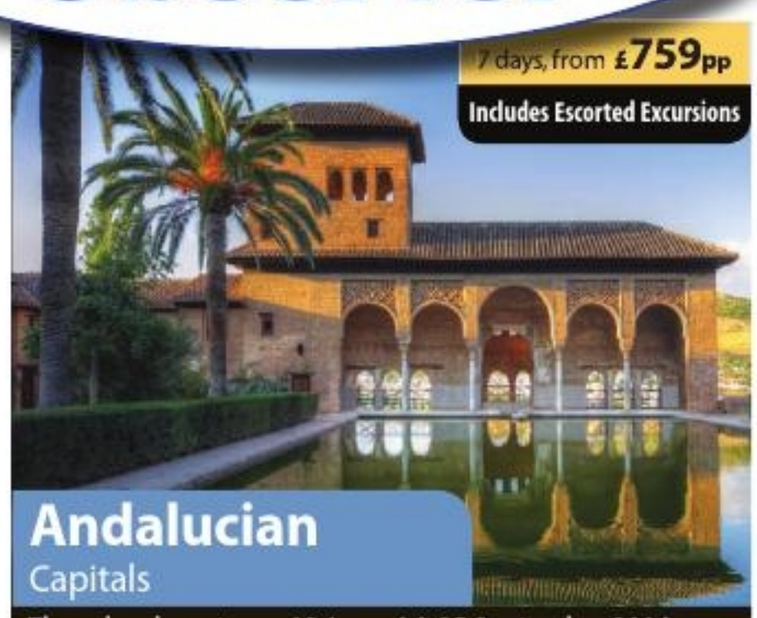
12 Jun 2014 - 14 Jun 2014
The Haymarket
LADIES IN RETIREMENT
"Directed by Ian Dickens and starring a fantastic cast with well-known actors from stage and screen, this taut, creepy melodrama, based on a famous murder which actually took place at the end of the last century, has become one of the most successful and most frequently performed plays in the modern repertoire.



Thursday 17th April 8pm
Central Studio, Queen Mary's College
ALAN WILLIAMS ACOUSTICALLY YOURS
www.centralstudio.co.uk

Basingstoke Observer

Reader Travel



7 days, from £759pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Andalucian Capitals

Thursday departures, 12 June, 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalucia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malaga†
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 12 June 2014.

8 days, from £689pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Barcelona and Catalonia

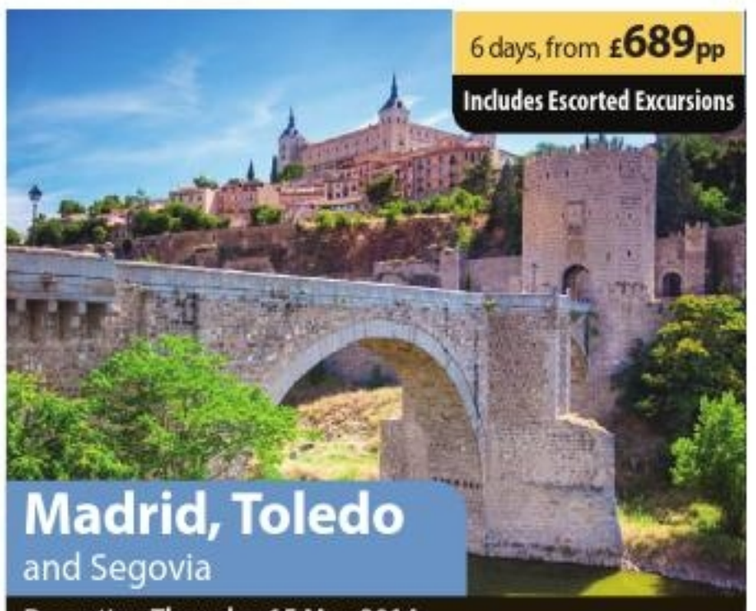
Departing Wednesday 14 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

From Gothic to Gaudi, the ramblas to the champlas, in Barcelona there is artistry on every street corner. We'll take you to Montserrat and the Black Madonna, Figueres and the Dali Museum, La Garrotxa with its volcanic gorges, and eleventh century Besalú with its Jewish quarter. All this, and you've still got time to stroll on the beach at Calella on the Costa Brava, visit a wine cava, and the markets at La Boqueria, or just relax in 4-star style.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Barcelona††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay in 4 star Hotel Les Palmeres, Calella with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 3 full day excursions; to Barcelona including guided walking tour of the old town, Montserrat and Figueres with admission to the Dali Museum

†† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.



6 days, from £689pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Madrid, Toledo and Segovia

Departing Thursday 15 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid†††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Ganivet, Madrid,with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

††† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

For more information or to book, please call:
01539 751252 quote BOB
or visit: **www.basingstokeobserver.reader.travel**

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.30
SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Organised by Omega Holidays. ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6083. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability. †Our prices include your flights for which we have allowed a reasonable budget. However, at your time of booking, should the cost of your flight exceed this budget, we reserve the right to charge a supplement, which we will advise you of at this time.

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	1	9			3	6		
		8	5				4	2
	6		1	7				5
9	7	6		8	4			
	2						3	
			9	5		8	6	7
3				4	1		2	
4	8				9	5		
		1	2			7	8	

5	6		9		2		4	3
			6	4	7			
	7			5			2	
6								2
	1						9	
4								7
	9			6			1	
			3	8	5			
2	8		1		9		3	6

	2		9					
5				7			8	
	9	6	1			2		
					2		9	4
		3				6		
6	7		5					
		7			1	3	5	
	6			3				2
					8		4	

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Rascals (6)
8 Angles (7)
10 Swooped (7)
11 Dances (5)
12 Concise (5)
13 Act of flirting (9)
16 Truce (9)
19 Melody (5)
20 Catch hold of (5)
22 Deep ravines (7)
23 Voter (7)
24 Enjoyment of cruelty (6)

Quick Clues Down

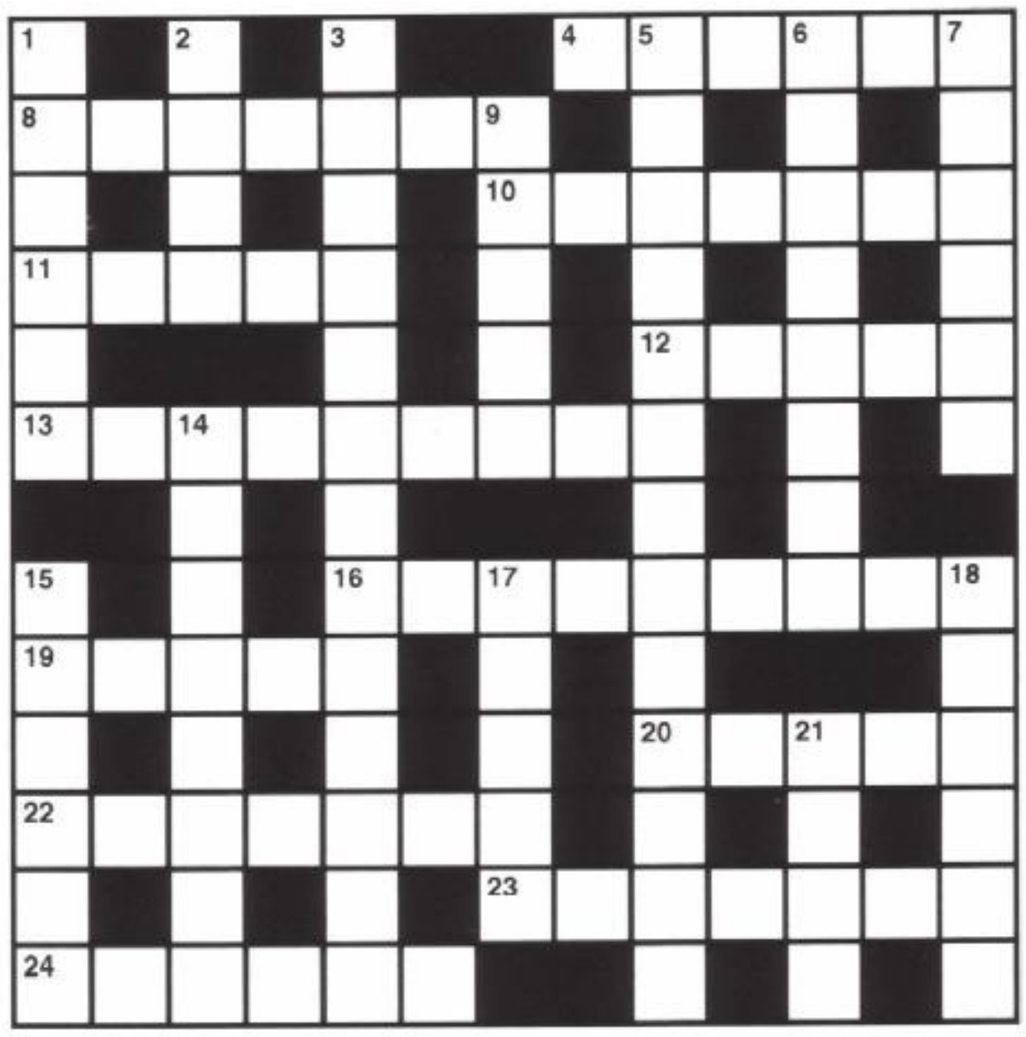
1 Afraid (6)
2 Right (4)
3 Discerning (13)
5 Confirmed (13)
6 Wheat paste (8)
7 Unexpected (6)
9 European country (5)
14 Decreased (8)
15 Loose shirts (6)
17 A rodent (5)
18 Specialist (6)
21 Opposed to (4)

Cryptic Clues Across

4 Investigated professional plot (6)
8 Time's up for charges (7)
10 Painful experiences of gold transactions? (7)
11 A right young man for the crime
12 Bringing down the bird (5)
13 Feeling they put me in mixed tennis with team leader (9)
16 Fruit stolen from barrel? (9)
19 It's forbidden thanks to jeering sound (5)
20 Postponement of French song (5)
22 Shows how Father attacks, we hear (7)
23 See it's a short distance after the crop to the barn (3,4)
24 Men of the trees? (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Rails about five who are competitors (6)
2 Chooses to stop out (4)
3 Not 'Gentlemen, be seated' (8,5)
5 Important occasions for Moscow landlady? (3-6,4)
6 Food for Bunny is seen to flourish (8)
7 Wish to end hostilities in dire circumstances (6)
9 Loves to unravel mysteries (5)
14 Figured the Editor was less feeling? (8)
15 Plain but sounds elevating (6)
17 A blow to astound (5)
18 Go to the streets for these meetings (6)
21 The circle will see to the work (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	3	9	7	2	8	6	1	5
1	6	7	3	5	4	8	2	9
2	5	8	1	9	6	3	7	4
6	8	2	9	3	5	1	4	7
9	7	5	8	4	1	2	3	6
3	4	1	2	6	7	9	5	8
7	9	4	6	1	2	5	8	3
8	1	3	5	7	9	4	6	2
5	2	6	4	8	3	7	9	1

2	7	4	6	5	8	1	9	3
1	9	8	4	3	7	6	2	5
5	6	3	2	9	1	4	7	8
3	5	9	8	6	4	7	1	2
8	2	6	1	7	5	3	4	9
7	4	1	3	2	9	8	5	6
4	1	2	9	8	6	5	3	7
6	3	7	5	1	2	9	8	4
9	8	5	7	4	3	2	6	1

6	2	8	5	3	1	7	9	4
3	9	4	7	2	6	8	1	5
7	1	5	8	9	4	6	2	3
8	7	2	3	4	5	1	6	9
1	5	3	9	6	7	4	8	2
9	4	6	1	8	2	3	5	7
2	8	9	4	1	3	5	7	6
5	3	1	6	7	9	2	4	8
4	6	7	2	5	8	9	3	1

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Atheist 5 Emend 8 Hunt 9 Lighting 10 Obstacle races 13 Felt 14 Tags 17 Silver Wedding 19 Evidence 20 Ever 21 Tryst 22 Cygnets

Down: 2 Thumbs 3 Entitle 4 Solicitor 5 Ether 6 Evinces 7 Digests 11 Extremely 12 Dissect 13 Falsify 15 Gudgeon 16 Intent 18 Exert

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Consort 5 Babel 8 Lair 9 Straight 10 Played the game 13 Aden 14 Tips 17 Demonstration 19 Cantered 20 Airs 21 Shape 22 Extends

Down: 2 Oracle 3 Strayed 4 Residents 5 Brake 6 Beggars 7 Letters 11 Heterodox 12 Indices 13 Ammonia 15 Pottage 16 Torrid 18 Niece

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Mortons

Berkshire & North Hampshire

April

Saturday 5th April
Whiteley Shopping Village, Marks and Spencer Superstore Hedge End and Cheesefoot Head!
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 8th April
Portsmouth and Southsea £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 10th April
London Museums or The London Eye
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 15th April
The Cotswolds in Spring and Moreton-in-Marsh Market £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 17th April
Marwell Wildlife Park or shopping in Fareham
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

May

Saturday 3rd May
Lymington Market and the New Forest
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 17th May
Weymouth
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Saturday 31st May
The Thames Traveller £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

June

Tuesday 3rd June
Brighton £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 5th June
Bournemouth £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 15th June
Swansea and the 21st Festival of Transport on Father's Day
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 28th June
Sanders Garden World & Burnham-on-Sea
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

July

Saturday 12th July
Aylesbury and The Vale, The Dunstable Downs and The Great Train Robbery £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 27th July
Bognor or Butlins £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 29th July
Cutty Sark and Greenwich Park
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 31st July
Oxford or Blenheim Palace £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

August

Saturday 2nd August
The Kentish Klipper - Sevenoaks and Royal Tunbridge Wells
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 5th August
Gosport Market & Lee-on-the-Solent
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 7th August
Mystery Seaside Excursion £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 12th August
Stewarts Garden Centre and Christchurch
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 14th August
Hampton Court Palace or Kingston-upon-Thames £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 16th August
Eastbourne including Air Show
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 19th August
Portsmouth World War One Commemorative Event or Southsea £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 21st August
Corfe Castle and Swanage £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Wednesday 27th August
Ringwood Market and Romsey £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 31st August
Bournemouth including Air Show
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

September

Saturday 13th September
The Fosse Way Flyer
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 27th September
Wimborne Market and Poole Quay
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

October

Saturday 11th October
Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £15.00

Saturday 25th October
Lymington and New Forest Drive
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 28th October
Mystery Tour £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 30th October
Notcutts Garden Centre and Guildford
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

November

Saturday 8th November
Westfield Christmas Shopping £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 22nd November
Christmas in London (including Winter Wonderland - Hyde Park) £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 29th November
Bath Christmas Market
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

December

Saturday 6th December
Brugge Christmas Market
Please remember your passport! (Price includes return Eurotunnel crossings)
Route 'X' - £42.50 per person – (no child reduction)

Sunday 14th December
London Christmas Shopping and Lights
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'B' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Excursion bookings can be made at:

Toucan Travel Ltd. Unit 18, Chineham Shopping Centre, Basingstoke.
(Debit and credit cards accepted)
Tel: 01256 356631

Toucan Travel Ltd. 18a Mulfords Hill, Tadley.
(Debit and credit cards accepted)
Tel: 0118 981 3238

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What's on in HAMPSHIRE | COMPS

To enter this competition

Just send your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to competitions@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Or on a postcard to Competitions, Basingstoke Observer, Newspaper House, 4A Hawksworth, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR

WIN tickets for Beaulieu this Easter!

VisitEngland Awards for Excellence 2013 GOLD WINNER

DURING the Easter holidays, 5th – 21st April, young visitors to Beaulieu can follow an egg-citing Trail and collect a sweet treat at the end.

At Palace House, home of the Montagu family since 1538, youngsters can have an Easter-themed face painting, and all the family can play with fun Victorian toys and games. If you visit over the Easter weekend, you may even get to meet the Easter Bunny!

Take a look around the National Motor Museum's stunning collection of over 250 vehicles, from world land speed record breakers to F1 racers, plus quirky motoring oddities including a Cadbury Crème Egg car. Journey through 100 years of motoring in the museum's pod-ride 'Wheels' and visit Jack Tucker's Garage, which recreates the sights, sounds and smells of a typical country garage from the 1930s.

Don't miss one of the first opportunities to see the museum's fascinating new display, For Britain & For The Hell Of It. Opening for the Easter holidays, it features Beaulieu's iconic land speed record cars and tells the story of British pluck, technological mastery and national pride – alongside new vehicles with a more alternative land speed heritage. A moving audio-visual presentation transports you back to a golden age of invention, courage and patriotism and introduces you to those who are keeping the record breaking dream alive today.

Closing date:
Friday, April 4, 2014

There's a lot more for all the family at Beaulieu this Easter; take a ride on the high-level Monorail or see the sights from the replica open-topped London Bus. Budding drivers can get behind the wheel on the Mini Car Driving Circuit and younger visitors can get physical on Dipstick's Mini Motor Play Trail with its Veteran Bus climbing frame, swings and Little Tykes ride-on-cars.

Beaulieu is open from 10am every day so hop along to Beaulieu for some Easter fun. For further information telephone 01590 612345 or visit: www.beaulieu.co.uk

To be in with a chance of wining a family ticket to take part in the Easter fun just answer this simple question.

Q: In which county is Beaulieu?

To enter more competitions like this, go online to
www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk
For full terms & conditions go to www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk/about-us

Basingstoke Observer

Reader Travel

New England in the Fall

by air from London Heathrow Airport

Enjoy the glorious colours of the New England Fall, experience the stunning coastal scenery of Cape Cod, and discover fabulous Boston, a city of many contrasts with its rich Colonial past and distinctly European feel, on these great value, fully escorted holidays with 2 fantastic options...

Option One

8 - 18 October 2014

Visiting Boston, Cape Cod, Newport (Rhode Island), the battlefields of Lexington, Salem - the 'Witch Capital of the World', the coast of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, (including Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Cold Hollow Cider Mill and Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks), Stowe and Lake Champlain (including a cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III).

PRICE INCLUDES:
- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston†
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Ogunquit River Plantation hotel, Maine with breakfast
- 3 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

by Air, from £1499pp

†We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27/12/13 and is based upon departure from Heathrow airport on 8/10/14

Option Two

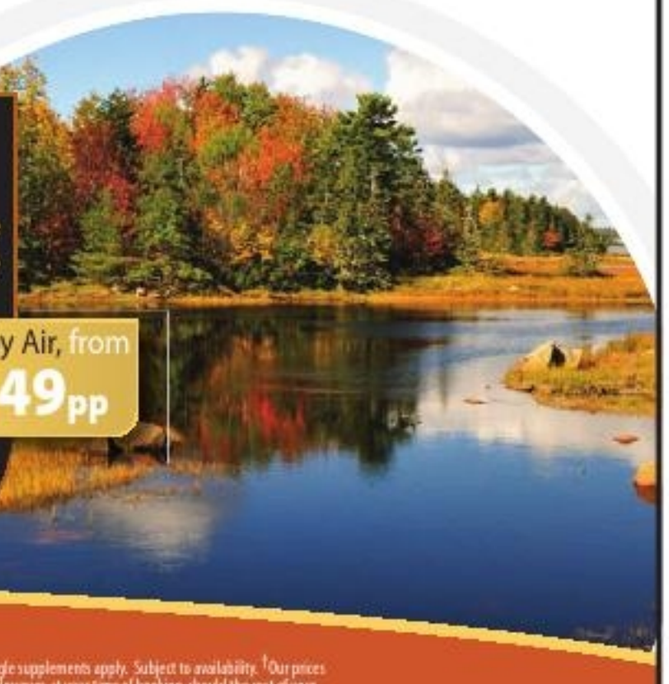
25 September - 5 October 2014 and 9 -19 October 2014

Visiting Cape Cod, the Island of Martha's Vineyard, the Pilgrim town of Plymouth (and the Plimoth Plantation), Boston, the battlefields of Lexington, Salem, Newport (Rhode Island), New Hampshire, Vermont and Stowe.

PRICE INCLUDES:
- Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston††
- 3 nights stay at the Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis with breakfast
- 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
- 2 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast

11 days by Air, from £1549pp

††We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27/12/13 and is based upon departure from Heathrow airport on 25/9/14



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SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Organised by Omega Holidays, ABTA V4782, ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability. †Our prices include your flights for which we have allowed a reasonable budget. However, at your time of booking, should the cost of your flight exceed this budget, we reserve the right to charge a supplement, which we will advise you of at this time.

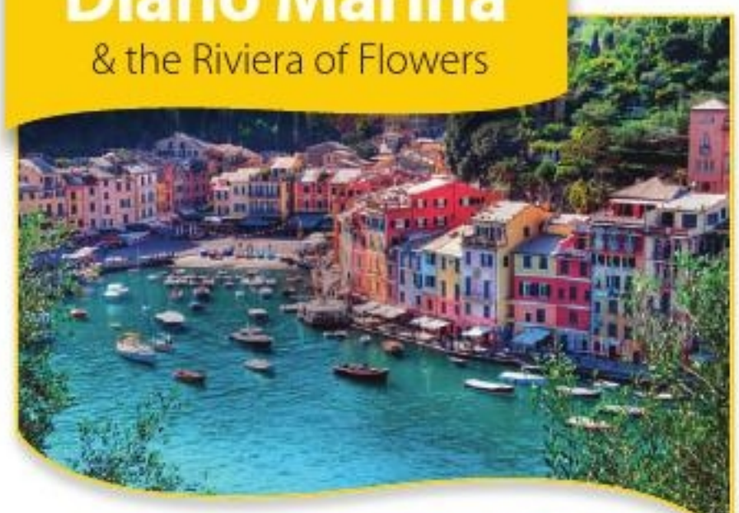
Basingstoke Observer

Reader Travel

European Holidays by Air

By AIR from Gatwick airport

Diano Marina
& the Riviera of Flowers



Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

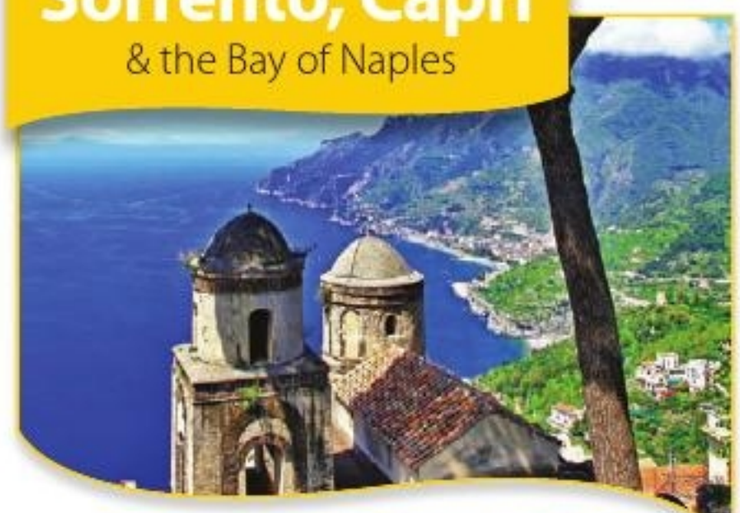
Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name…savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Piccolo Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
  An upgrade to the **4 star Hotel Metropol**, Diano Marina is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement.
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£819pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/9/14

Sorrento, Capri
& the Bay of Naples



Departing July - October 2014
From Gatwick airport

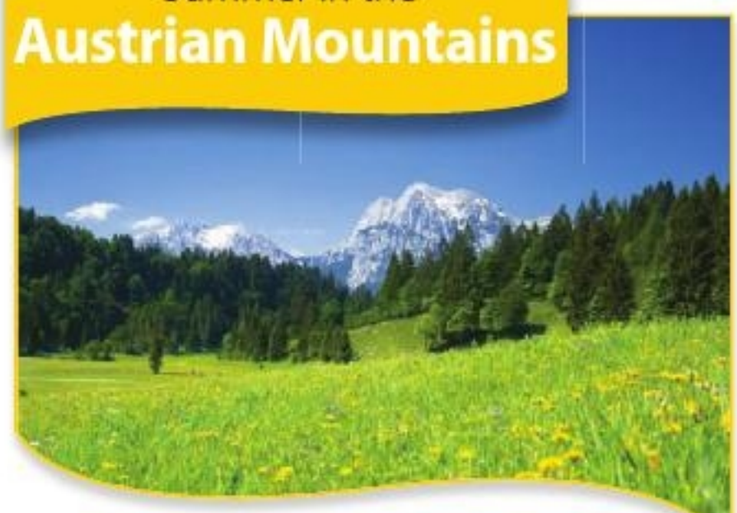
This is a dream of a break among the cliffs, lemon-orchards, olive-groves and turquoise waters of Italy's favourite bay. We invite you to discover the beautiful medieval city of Sorrento, which overlooks the magical waters of the Bay of Naples, allowing panoramic views of the city of Naples, the lovely islands of Capri and Ischia, and the awe-inspiring Mount Vesuvius.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Naples†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star** Hotel Delle Palme, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi with 3 course evening meal and breakfast
- **Three full-day escorted excursions**; to the Island of Capri, to Pompeii & Vesuvius, and the Amalfi Drive

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 29/9/14

Summer in the Austrian Mountains



Wednesday departures, July - August 2014
From Gatwick airport

Mountain pine air you could bottle and sell, glacier fresh beer, scented meadows, a history of music and mad kings, houses painted as optical illusions – discover alpine Austria with this Omega 8 day break including flights, 4 star hotel, dinner, breakfast and full day excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Basel†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from Basel airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Sport Hotel, St Anton am Arlberg** with breakfast and evening meal
- Full day excursion to Oberammergau
- Full day excursion to Lake Constance and Lindau (inc boat trip)
- Half day on scenic high mountain Silvretta highway visiting Schruns and Ischgl

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£659pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 16/7/14

Malta & Gozo
The Idyllic Islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Park Hotel, Sliema** with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
- Includes a full day excursion; to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£749pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14

Dubrovnik
The Pearl of the Adriatic

Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Grand Hotel Park**, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to the island of Korčula and a cruise around the Elaphite Islands

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£749pp**

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 11/5/14

Madrid, Toledo
and Segovia

Departing Thursday 15 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Ganivet, Madrid, with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

Includes Escorted Excursions — 6 days by **AIR**, from **£659pp**

For more information or to book, please call:
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New Citroën C1 set to be available in the UK from July

Hit the road this summer

REVIEW: Citroën C1
By **Andy Allans**

THE new Citroën C1 will be priced from £8,245 to £11,935 when it goes 'on sale' in the UK in July.

It will be available in three trim levels – Touch, Feel & Flair - with airscape versions available in Feel & Flair trim. It's powered by two efficient petrol engines – VTi 68 and VTi 82 - and will go on sale to the UK public in July.

Available with three and five doors, the New C1 range starts at just £8,245 for the New C1 Touch VTi 68 manual 3-door, rising to £11,935 for the New C1 Airscape Flair VTi 68 ETG 5-door.

There will be eight body colours to choose from, including four metallic options, along with three wheel designs and four interior upholstery finishes. The fabric roof will be available in three colours for the Airscape models (Black, Grey & Sunrise Red).

The New C1 range is powered by two latest-generation petrol engines: a VTi 68, available with either a 5-speed manual or a 5-speed clutchless Efficient Tronic Gearbox (ETG), or as an e-VTi 68 Airdream 5-speed manual with Stop & Start technology. There is also the addition of Citroën's latest 3-cylinder 'PureTech' VTi 82 engine with a 5-speed manual transmission.

New Citroën C1 Feel adds air conditioning, DAB digital radio, 7" Touch Drive interface with Mirror Screen technology and steering mounted controls, along with body coloured door mirrors and door handles.

New Citroën C1 Flair sports 15" 'Planet' alloy wheels and additional features including a speed limiter, rev counter, reversing camera, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, a leather steering wheel and dark tinted rear windows.

Optional extras include automatic air conditioning, automatic headlights, keyless entry and start and styling details, such as black leather upholstery and various interior colour packs.

• *The new Citroën C1*

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2)–94.2 (3); Combined 36.7 (7.7)–88.3 (3.2). The range's official CO_2 emissions are 178–83g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO_2 may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

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Taking care of your motor

FASTFIT Service Centre is celebrating its tenth anniversary at Unit One, Moniton Trading Estate in West Ham Lane.

And the independent automotive specialist is proud to be expanding in a bid to give its customers exactly what they want. "Everything your car needs is here under one roof", explained manager Byron Lewis who, like his team of experts, has spent a lifetime in the automotive industry.

He added: At Fastfit we offer hourly rates which are some of the best in Basingstoke. No job is beyond us and we are quite simply a one-stop shop and more besides. Whether it's and entire engine overhaul or just tweaking the brakes. we will do it, and do it well."

The business is continually expanding and includes a new mobile tyre fitting and home start service. A comprehensive diagnostic service can also be provided and the business issues many dealer level tools ranging from Ford, Jaguar to Land Rover and Volkswagen.

Fastfit offers everything from MOTs and minor servicing to major repairs and complex engine work.

More complex issues include an Engine Control Unit (ECU) remapping service which makes the vehicle more responsive and smoother to driver. In these tough time, it also slightly increases the miles-per-gallon!

Fastfit Service Centre also stocks a rang of budget or performance tyres and it can also custom build stainless steel exhaust systems.

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What our customers think

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Cheers,
Clive Baldwin

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Chris H

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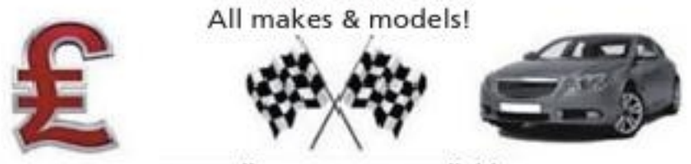

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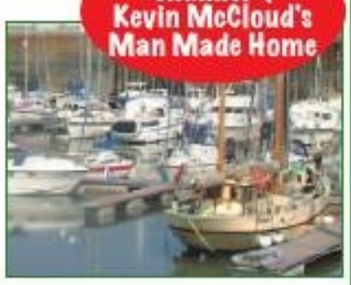

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woman seeking

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CLAIRE young 39 slim size 10, pretty, outgoing, seeks similar spontaneous male for nights in/out and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409417**

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VICTORIA 39, single mum, seeking male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409755**

ANGIE 32 curvy size 16, very attractive, good company and really fun to be with. What are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409255**

SARAH pretty petite green eyed female, lots of fun, likes children, animals, gym, eating out, running, sports, fast cars, shopping, seeking, nice guy to spend time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408879**

MICHELLE 30, blue eyes, brown curly hair, 5ft 4ins, likes pubs, tv, seeks N/S male for friendship, maybe more. Slough area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409601**

SUE young at heart female, very adventurous and looking for no strings fun with mature man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409251**

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409107**

JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409097**

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408293**

CAROL 35yr old self employed nurse, looking for similar lonely male who likes travel, holidays, theatre and most important tlc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409085**

VICTORIA 38 fun loving and single looking for fun times with male, preferably Asian. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408729**

LIZ attractive blonde blue eyed female with no children/ties, loves country living, animals, seeks male companion for holidays, cosy nights and more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408629**

SUSAN 24yr single mum of two, likes nights in/out, walking, swimming, running, WLTM tall, loyal easy going male to end lonely nights and brighten days. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408287**

SOPHIE attractive hard working female, who enjoys dancing and good company, WLTM loving male to enjoy nights out and genuine laughter. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408625**

MARG elegant attractive affectionate lady who enjoys many varied interests WLTM genuine male 50-60yrs for mutual indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408511**

ALEX 35, very attractive, slim, blonde, caring sensitive single mum, likes meals in/out, nice pubs, WLTM similar male/dad to love and care for. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408503**

25YR old very lonely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408249**

CHRIS 39yr old attractive well built sporty lady looking for tall, happy, well built male to enjoy adult companionship, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407935**

LUCY truly wonderful brunette who really loves life, seeking sincere male for true friendship with a little romance thrown in for good measure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407457**

KATIE slim racy female, likes cars, horses, dogs looking for tall experienced male who knows how to make me happy and please me. Daytime meets preferable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407045**

LIZ 24 attractive blonde, green eyes, size 14, likes golf, pubs, comedy, holidays, WLTM professional well built male for romance, tlc and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408303**

HI I am Sally a single 28yr old female, pretty, size 8-10 with a GSOH and fun to be with looking for similar lonely male for mutual companionship, dates and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407951**

man seeking

BERNARD 63, brown hair/eyes, seeking lady for soul mate, romance and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409883**

BLACK male, 6ft 2ins, shaved head, seeking white female, brunette/dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409789**

ATTRACTIVE 35yr old male, seeks lady for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409769**

WHITE gent 58, fun, good looking, seeks lady friend, any age. London. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 353301**

NEGLECTED male seeks female for daytime chats, coffee, lunches and discreet adult passion. Age/status unimportant, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 406805**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 388372**

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Glory for Herd as they win first trophy in 14 years...

BASINGSTOKE Bison won their first major trophy in 14 years last week, after a 7-5 aggregate victory over Milton Keynes Lightning in the English Ice Hockey Premier League Cup final.

By **Adam Flinn**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The Herd had a 4-1 lead going into last Wednesday's match, and despite losing the game 4-3, it was enough to give them the win.

Aaron Connolly scored Bison's first just 20 seconds into the game with Tomas Karpov adding another at 11:44, for a 6-1 aggregate advantage.

The Lightning got on the board through Leigh Jamieson at 27:02, and were soon level on the night going into the final period.

Stanislav Lascek grabbed the third and Blaz Emersic the fourth for the Lightning in the third period, to put the aggregate score at 6-5.

But Andy Melachrino scored on the powerplay to extend the advantage to 7-5, and Bison hung on to seal a historic victory, leading to joyous celebrations from the players and fans alike.

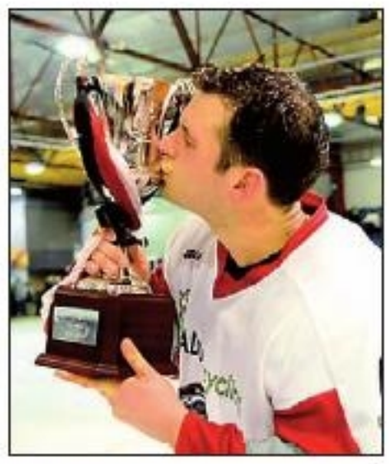
Yet despite their cup heroics, Bison's title hopes ended on Sunday following a 5-2 defeat against Manchester Phoenix, who are now guaranteed to finish top of the league.

The scores had been level after the first period, but Phoenix pulled clear in the second to establish a 4-2 lead, and netted an empty net goal in the dying moments to add to their total.

It followed on from Saturday night's victory against Sheffield Steeldogs, as Bison came back from behind to win 4-3.

Bison are guaranteed second place in the league standings thanks to their 72 points, four behind Phoenix and five ahead of third-placed Guildford Flames.

Just two games of the season remain, as Bison face Swindon Wildcats away on Saturday before hosting the Lightning again on Sunday.



• All pictures by Grant King

Whitchurch held, Tadley lose but Wintney enjoying life

WHITCHURCH are still looking for their first Wessex Premier League win since January, after a 2-2 draw with Hamworthy United on Saturday was followed by a 3-0 defeat at Alresford Town on Tuesday.

The Jam Boys have steadily fallen behind the league leaders after a strong start to the season, and are now ninth in the league with 49 points.

In the Wessex First Division, Tadley Calleva suffered a heavy 4-0 loss away to Cowes Sports on Tuesday, after a 1-0 home win against Laverstock and Ford on Saturday.

Despite Tuesday's defeat, Calleva have shown good form in recent matches, and are sixth in the standings with 35 points.

But it was Hartley Wintney who enjoyed the most successful week, with a 4-2 win against Westfield at the weekend followed by Tuesday night's 3-1 victory at home to Windsor.

Wintney are up to eighth in the Combined Counties Premier, and still have 14 games remaining due to early season cup runs and postponements because of the wet weather.

All three teams return to action on Saturday, as Whitchurch travel to Fareham Town, Calleva host Hayling United and Wintney are at home to Croydon.

Sport Bites

Agony for 'Stoke

A CONVERTED try in injury time denied Basingstoke RFC a second consecutive win, as they lost 30-29 away to Westcombe Park.

The visitors had been 29-23 ahead going into the final stages of the match, but a try in the dying moments put them within a point, before the subsequent conversion meant Westcombe snatched the win.

'Stoke had put in a strong performance following last week's dominant win over basement side Barking, with the visitors being 17-10 at half-time.

They were able to increase their lead soon after the break, and were in control of the game until the final few minutes where Westcome were able to steal an unlikely victory.

Despite the loss, recent results mean that 'Stoke are 11 points clear of relegation in 11th place, with 42 points.

They next travel to Tring on Saturday.

Testing continues

NORTH Hampshire racing drivers Rob Collard and Nick Foster were at the British Touring Car Championship's final official test session on Tuesday, ending the day ninth and 13th respectively.

Collard completed 39 laps of the Donington Park circuit with a best time of 1:12.092, one second behind first-placed Andrew Jordan.

Foster's best lap of 1:12.483 came as he set 60 laps in the rain-affected session, ahead of the first race of the season at Brands Hatch on March 30.

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Inside: Glory for Herd as they win first trophy in 14 years... | Agony for 'Stoke

Skipper Daly dismissed as 'Stoke frustrated by Angels

WE DIDN'T PLAY OUR FOOTBALL

JASON Bristow feels his side did not play their football on Tuesday against a Tonbridge side threatened by relegation.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The Dragons, who lost skipper Wes Daly to two yellow cards midway through the second half, laboured to a 0-0 draw against the Kent side at the Camrose.

The draw leaves Bristow's men 12th in the Skrill South, eight points off the play-offs.

"Before the game, we set out to get three points," said Bristow. "But in the first half in particular, we did not get our football going. We worked hard, and there was lots of effort and commitment, but we didn't really play our football.

"In the second half we came out a lot better, and were well on top before the sending off.

"To be fair to the players, I thought we were the better side in the second half, and with a little bit more quality in the final third, we could have got the three points.

"The players dug deep, and Tonbridge are a side who are scrapping for points themselves for different reasons, and it was always going to be tough.

"It was another frustrating night – we definitely could have played better than we did, but I still think we were the better side and should have got the three points."

Daly was dismissed for two similar fouls either side of half-time, and while Bristow has no complaints about the first caution, he added he thought the second yellow card was "a bit soft".

Injuries have blighted Bristow's side in recent times, with a hectic fixture schedule allowing no let-up for players who pick up knocks.

"We had five fixtures in 11 days, it was difficult to keep the players fresh," said Bristow.

"Little niggles that players can play through mount up and seem to doubt and make them worse when there's no recovery period. We just have to get through this period with injuries and come out the other side."

They now have three games in a row at the Camrose, and could be boosted by the return of Neil Barrett and Jordace Holder-Spooner for Saturday's clash with Havant and Waterlooville.

However, Simon Dunn is likely to be out for another three weeks, while frontman Manny Williams is doubtful.

Saturday's opponents are three places higher than Basingstoke, but are well placed with matches in hand to mount a serious promotion challenge.

Basingstoke Town	0
Tonbridge Angels	0

· Andrew Jenkinson (right) goes in for a tackle against Tonbridge (Picture by Les Chase)

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